

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 02003 181518Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /049 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4212

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 2003

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER, SCUL, DR
SUBJECT: MEDIA TREATMENT OF HURWITCH INVESTIGATION

1. SANTO DOMINGO PRESS OF FRIDAY AFTERNOON APRIL 14 AND
SATURDAY MORNING APRIL 15 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO
ALLEGATIONS AGAINST INBASSADOR HURWITCH.

2. ON FRIDAY, THE THREE AFTERNOON PAPERS REPEATED CHICAGO SUN-
TIMES ACCOUNTS. ULTIMA HORA RAN TWO STORIES ON INSIDE PAGES,
ONE COMMENTING THAT NEWS DISTURBED LOCAL POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC
CIRCLES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. OTHER QUOTED FOREIGN SECRETARY
JIMENEZ AS REFUSING COMMENT, SAYING ONLY THAT MATTER WAS FOR
AMERICANS TO ADDRESS.

3. SATURDAY MORNING PAPERS FOCUSED COVERAGE ON APRIL 14 STATEMENT
OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. REPORTAGE WAS STRAIGHT WIRE
SERVICE ACCOUNTS.

4. THE THREE AFTERNOON PAPERS ON SATURDAY WERE FULL OF CAMPAIGN
NEWS. ONLY LA NOTICIA, FREEST-SWINGING OF THE THREE, CARRIED TWO
INTERPRETIVE ACCOUNTS: ONE ALLEGED THAT AMBASSADOR HURWITCH'S
ACCOUNTS WERE BEING AUDITED BY SAME "PRIVATE FIRM" THAT AUDITED
ACCOUNT OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON; THE OTHER, A POLITICAL GOSSIP
COLUMN, HASHED OVER ALLEGATIONS AND CONCLUDED THAT FORMER
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AMBASSADOR JOE FARLAND (1958-60) HAD COME TO TAKE OVER MISSION
UNTIL ARRIVAL AMBASSADOR YOST. FARLAND WAS HERE RECENTLY ON
PRIVATE VISIT.

5. THE CITY'S TWO SUNDAY TABLOID WERE FULL OF ELECTION
CAMPAIGN NEWS AND CARRIED NO FURTHER MENTION OF HURWITCH
INVESTIGATION.

6. MONDAY, APRIL 17, SUBJECT MENTIONED ONLY (A) BY MORNING
EL SOL IN POLITICAL GOSSIP COLUMN (UBI RIVAS), ALLEGING HURWITCH
LOBBIED AND SUBSEQUENTLY BENEFITTED FROM \$120 MILLION ATKINSON
INTERNATIONAL CONTRACT TO BUILD SABANA YEGUA DAM, CONCESSIONS FOR
ROSARIO GOLD MINING ENTERPRISE, APPOINTMENT OF CENTRAL BANK
GOVERNOR PERICHE TO ADVANCE US MINING INTERESTS HERE, AND
FAVORED TREATMENT FOR ALCOA AND FALCONBRIDGE; AND (B) BY AFTERNOON
EL NACIONAL IN EDITORIA COMMENT DRAWING TWO LESSONS FROM CASE,
THAT ADMINISTRATIVE CORRUPTION CAN BE FOUND ANYWHERE AND THAT
HONORABLE GOVERNMENTS INVESTIGATE IT AND SEND CHARGES TO JUSTICE
TRIBUNALS TO DECLARE INNOCENCE OF IMPOSE SANCTIONS.
AXELROD

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